

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Patti Harrington
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: April 4, 2008

ACTION: R277-488, Critical Languages Pilot Program (Revised)

Background: S.B. 80, Education Reform - Critical Languages Program, passed by the 2007 Legislature, provided funding to create a pilot program for 20 high schools in the critical need languages of Mandarin Chinese and Arabic.

S.B. 41S01, International Education Initiative - Critical Languages Program, passed by the 2008 Legislature, will become effective on July 1, 2008. The new law will expand the current program by 40 secondary schools (grades 7-12). The new schools added to the program may offer Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Russian, or Farsi (Persian).

The legislation also provides funding to create a dual language pilot program which establishes an instructional model using 50 percent of instruction in English and 50 percent of instruction in another language. The program would begin in kindergarten, grade 1 or both, and add an additional grade each year.

Proposal: Staff will review the revised rule, R277-488, Critical Languages Pilot Program, with the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

The revisions include the additional 40 secondary schools be added to the current critical language pilot program, and the creation of a dual language pilot program.

Anticipated Action: It is recommended that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee approve the revised rule, R277-488, Critical Languages Pilot Program, on first reading, and that the Board approve the revised rule on second reading.

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